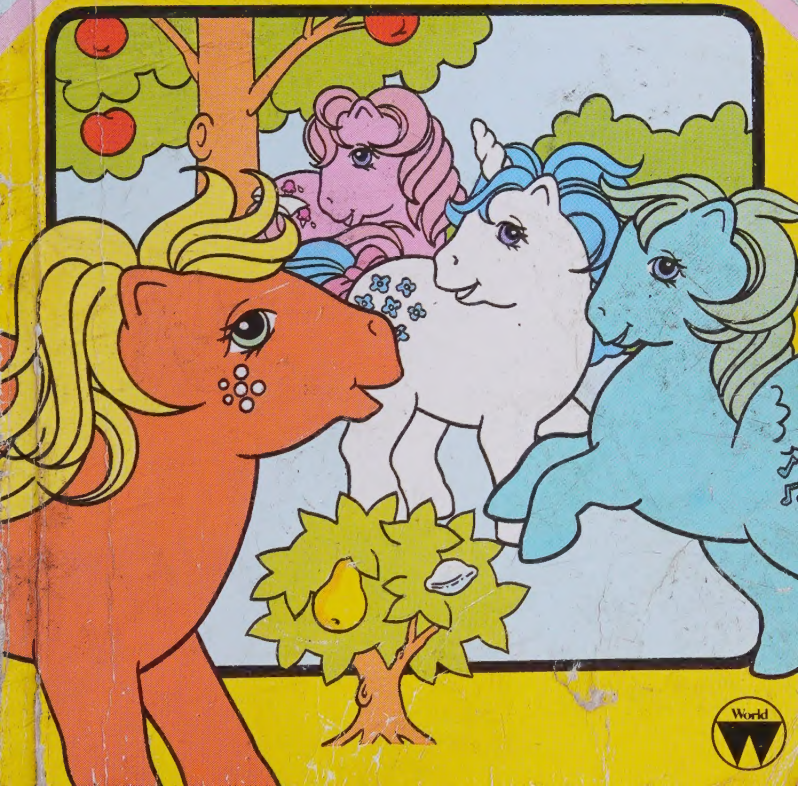


My Little Pony™

THE MAGIC NUT TREE





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THE MAGIC NUT TREE

All the little ponies were enjoying one of the lovely lunches that Majesty provided each day for them at Dream Castle.

"When you've had your afternoon nap in the Lullaby Nursery, I'll teach you all a new game," promised Hopscotch, wiping away a crumb from Baby Tiddly Winks' chin.

"Pony feathers, I love games!" cried Baby Tiddly Winks to Baby Glory. "Sparkler gave me some lovely glittering round pebbles to tiddle and wink with. Wasn't that kind of her?"

Baby Glory nodded her head. "Where is Sparkler?" she asked as she looked around. "I can't see her anywhere!"



"She should be back soon," replied Majesty, who had been listening. "She went to Gem Land to see if King Topaz had any tiny jewels to spare for her collection. Here she is now. Pony feathers, Sparkler, what's wrong? You do look upset!"

"Heavy hooves, Majesty, a dreadful thing has happened!" explained Sparkler. "Princess Pearl and Queen Emerald were walking in the palace gardens when the Sinister Sorcerer crept in and . . ."

"What happened?" gasped the baby ponies in horror.

"He touched the princess's face with his long bony finger just as she was speaking . . ."

"And he stole her sweet silver



speech and her beautiful sunny,
golden temper?" interrupted
Majesty.

"Is that what happened?" asked Sparkler. "All I know is that a silver and gold mist floated away from the princess's head into a bag that the sorcerer held. When he ran off with the bag, the princess seemed under a spell. Instead of being sweet and kind, she became very bad tempered and cross. She spoke spitefully to her ladies-in-waiting and even pulled a



rude face at her father, King Topaz, when he told her to remember her manners!"

"It isn't *her* fault . . . she has lost her kind speech and golden temper," repeated Majesty gravely. "Find them and she will be her own true self again."

"King Topaz has asked for our help," said Sparkler. "What can we do, Majesty?"





Majesty thought very hard for a moment as she twirled her magic horn. Then she sang softly:

*"There is a magic nut tree,
And nothing doth it bear,
But a silver nutmeg
And a golden pear.
Little ponies you must seek
This magic tree so rare,
If you want to help the princess,
For whom we all dearly care!"*



"What should we do when we find the magic nut tree?" asked Gypsy.

"Where will we find it?" cried Applejack.





"Where it is I do not know!" said Majesty sadly. "It was planted way back in the mists of time somewhere in Pony Land. But when you find the tree, pluck the silver nutmeg and the golden pear from it. If the Princess Pearl eats a little from each, the enchantment will be at an end and she will be sweet and kind once more!"



"It's a hard task you have set us, Majesty," sighed Medley, "But Skydancer and Firefly and I will fly all over Pony Land and see if we can see the tree from the air!"

"Pony feathers, yes, and I will come too," cried Heart Throb.

"We will help as well," promised Tickle, Surprise and Flutterbye.



"We will look all around the farm and the Show Stable," said Lemon Drop. "Come on, Posey . . . and you too, Cotton Candy. If you can find flowers, I'm sure you can find a nut tree!"

"I'm quite sure I can," promised Cotton Candy, hastily swallowing the petal of a very large flower.

"I'll go and ask my friends the bees if they have seen the magic nut tree," decided Honeycomb.

"If it's a *magic* nut tree, it just might grow on the sea-bed," cried Lickety-Split. "I'll go down to the shore with Confetti and ask the baby sea ponies."

"Such good ideas are bound to have good results," said Majesty. "Off you go, then. Good luck to you all!"







Medley flew off to the Wishing Wood and beat her hooves together so that all the woodland animals came rushing up to see what she wanted.

"There's no magic tree bearing a silver nutmeg here," cried the nightingale.

"Pony feathers, I'll have to try the

Weird Wood," muttered Medley.

"It's no use, Medley, we've already been . . . and the wicked trees tried to tear my wings!" cried Firefly. "I had to turn a treble treble loop to escape from them!"

"Yes. She really was very clever!" said the other flying ponies.





"We've searched the Merry Meadows, the Golden Glen and the Feather Fields," added Sprinkles.

"And Daffodil Dale . . . and Purple Patches!" added Surprise and Flutterbye.

"Pony feathers, let's hope the others have better luck," cried Skydancer, as they all flew back to Dream Castle.

But although Lemon Drop, Posey, Bow Tie and Cotton Candy had searched inside and outside the Show Stable, they hadn't found the magic nut tree, either.

"I found a bone I hid long ago," barked Brandy, scampering up.

"I found some ribbons I thought I'd lost!" added Bow Tie.

"And one day I'll make a new jump shaped like the nut tree, but not until I've found the real magic one," promised Lemon Drop. "Come on, let's go and tell Majesty that it isn't here!"



"Heavy hooves, that only leaves the sea and shore," cried Majesty. "Perhaps it is there after all!"

Meanwhile, Confetti and Lickety-Split had called the baby sea ponies to ask for their help.

"If you'll search the sea-bed for the magic tree, I'll make you a row of dancing paper ponies," promised Confetti.

"And I'll give you a simply huge ice-cream each. You can each choose your favourite flavour," added Lickety-Split.

"That will be lovely," said Backstroke.

"But we would have searched even without the ice-cream and paper ponies!" cried Sea Star and Sea Shimmer. "We want to help Princess Pearl, too!"





"We know you do," replied Confetti gently. "But do take care. Some places are dangerous and deep!"

"Don't worry, I can dive really deep without hurting myself," Backstroke told them. "I'll go right down to the bottom and see what is growing on the sea-bed."

"I'll ride on the tail of a big wave and ask my friends the dolphins if

they have seen the magic nut tree," cried Surf Rider.

"I'll ask Miranda the mermaid if she's seen the tree," said Sea Shimmer.

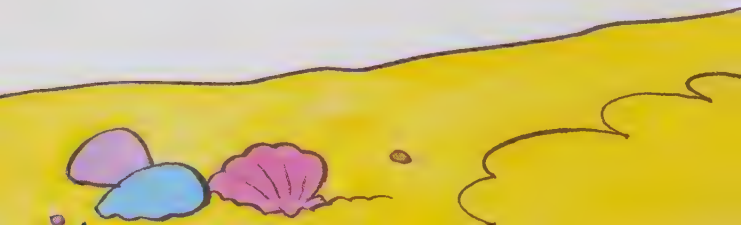
"Sea Star, Tiny Bubbles and I will go down and look in the treasure caves and see if it is growing there," shouted Splasher. And away they all swam while Confetti and Lickety-Split waited anxiously for their return.



Sadly, the sea ponies had no success, either. "The dolphins have only seen seaweed trees and on the sea-bed there is only frond grass and shells," confessed Surf Rider and Backstroke.

"Miranda says she has never even *heard* of the magic nut tree, much less seen it," cried Sea Shimmer.

"And all we found were jewels and gold and silver coins in a treasure chest," said Splasher. "I brought one back for Sparkler's collection. Hey, great galloping hooves, just look at that!"



"Pony feathers! Hopscotch is drawing a hopscotch game on the sand. The squares are inside a tree!" shouted Lickety-Split. "And look, Gypsy's there, dancing and singing around the tree."

"This is no time for playing games," called Confetti, as they all rushed over.





But Gypsy took no notice and the ponies heard her say:

*"Tree on the sand, tree on the sand,
Soon you'll be washed away by the
tide.*

*But before you go,
We want to know
Where the magic tree doth hide!"*

"Gypsy's weaving one of her magic spells. What will happen?" whispered Sea Star to Surf Rider.

"Pony feathers, look! Some words are appearing inside the sand tree!" cried Lickety-Split.
"What does it say, Gypsy?"



"It's telling us where to look for the magic tree," replied Gypsy.
"Listen!"

*"Once long ago it grew alone,
But now can scarce be seen
In Applejack's favourite place,
Amid fruit of red and green!"*





Just then Applejack herself appeared. She had been sent by Majesty to see what was happening down by the sea shore.

"Why, pony feathers, that's the answer . . . the orchard . . . it's the one place we haven't looked!"

"Come on everyone, let's go and search the orchard!" cried Confetti.

"I'll go back to Dream Castle and bring the others," said Hopscotch.

Soon, all the little ponies and the baby ponies were busy looking around the orchard. They searched and searched until suddenly . . .

"I've found it!" shouted Applejack triumphantly. "Look here, growing in the shade of the big old apple tree. It's only a few inches high. No wonder we nearly missed it!"







"Well done, Applejack!" laughed Majesty, as she carefully picked the silver nutmeg and golden pear. "Now Medley, fly as swiftly as you can to Gem Land and give these to Queen Emerald. Tell her she must get the princess to eat them."

"But suppose she won't?" asked Sparkler anxiously.

"I'll make sure she does," chuckled Majesty.



So away flew Medley while Majesty and the others went back to Dream Castle and watched what was happening in Gem Land.

"Princess Pearl is so awkward and bad tempered that she is refusing to eat the nutmeg and pear!" cried Applejack. "Applesauce, what a pity! After all the trouble we went to find it!"

Majesty decided it was time to use her magic horn. Twirling her horn, and making sure her spell was strong enough to reach the princess, she sang softly:

*"Princess, princess, you shall eat!
Princess, ask for a special treat!
A silver nutmeg and a golden
pear.*

With no other you shall share."







Suddenly, to everyone's surprise, the princess seized the nutmeg and the pear and ate them both very greedily. As the last morsel of pear disappeared, the princess looked very surprised. "Dear me, I do feel rather different," she said.

1
"As if I've changed . . . but how?"

"Dearest Princess Pearl, you've got your sweet speech and sunny temper back!" cried Medley happily, as the princess smiled and hugged everyone.



"And it's all thanks to the little ponies," cried King Topaz.

"Medley, you must give them all our deepest thanks."

"Pony feathers, Your Majesty, we were only too pleased to help," said Medley.





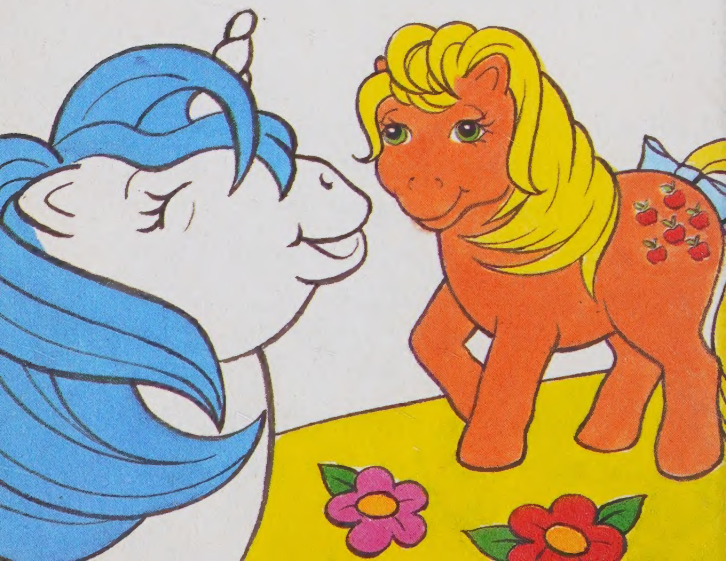
"Indeed we were," agreed Majesty and the little ponies, as they watched back in Pony Land.

"Pony feathers, Applejack, where are you off to?" asked Hopscotch, as her friend ran towards the door.

"Back to the orchard to see if another silver nutmeg and golden pear has grown on the tree?"

"Yes, I'm going to the orchard . . . but to find a tree full of red apples. That's a *magic* tree for me!" cried Applejack.

How Majesty and the others laughed. "Oh Applejack! You'll never change, will you?" said Majesty.





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TITLES IN THIS SERIES:

THE GRAND PONY PARADE

THE MAGIC NUT TREE

**THE LITTLE PONIES
AND THE PIXIE SEA PIRATES**

GUSTY AND THE GENIE



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